

RACING NOTES.

YEARLINGS FOR DONCASTER.—I.



W. A. Rouch.

BAY COLT BY BAYARDO—ROYAL MARRIAGE.

(LANGTON HALL STUD.)

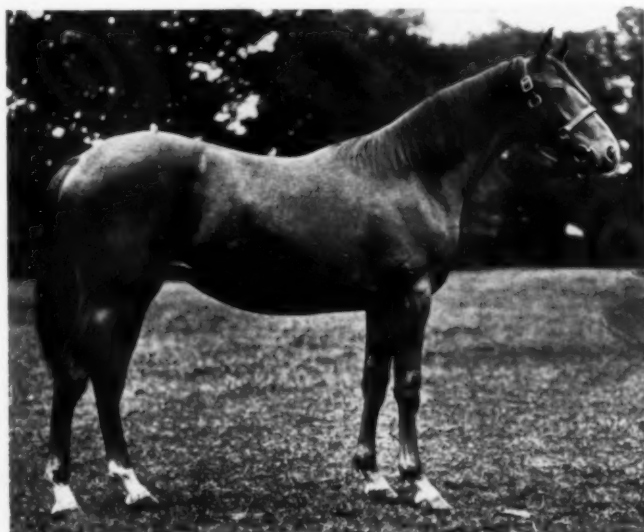


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CHESTNUT COLT BY WILLIAM THE THIRD—RISBY.

S LIGHTLY varying my usual itinerary, Captain Fife's stud at Langton Hall was the first visited in the course of this year's round of visits to those of the principal Yorkshire breeding establishments. It might here be mentioned that in due course I shall deal with the yearlings seen at such other studs as Worksop Manor, Sledmere, Cottingham, Theakston Hall, the Stockwell Stud, the Wisdom Stud and, if time and space permit, one or two more. Before going further I may say that the Langton Hall yearlings will be sold absolutely without reserve—each lot will be knocked down to the highest bidder, be the price what it may—and that, to my mind, is the best way to sell, for there is nothing that buyers dislike more than having to bid against an unknown reserve. All being well no healthier lot of yearlings will be seen at Doncaster than the eleven going up from Langton Hall—eight colts and three fillies. The first, taking them in the order in which I happened to see them, is a big colt—a first foal, and a good one at that—by Matchmaker 22 out of Rose Royal (5), a well-bred mare by William the Third (2) out of Rose Bend, by Bend Or (1). The colt himself is none too big, but he is, as I have said, a first foal, and is a nice deep-bodied, active youngster, good to follow, and has well-placed shoulders. Next came a fine, well-grown chestnut colt by St. Frusquin 22 out of Novantoe 22 (herself a winner and a half-sister to Alicia), by Ayrshire 8 out of Alix. This is a racing-like colt—sure, I should say, to race—nor is it anything against him that he is inbred to family No. 22 from whence have come such good

race-horses as Your Majesty, St. Frusquin, to say nothing of many other good winners, Matchmaker among them. Quite a good colt, I think, is the next on my list, a bay by Matchmaker 22 out of Queen Mab (own sister to Braxted and Mercutio), by Forfarshire 6 out of Sillabub (2). He stands on good limbs, has plenty of bone, nice scope and looks very much like paying his way as a race-horse. Now we have to deal with a son of Bayardo. A beautifully balanced, deep-girthed, sturdy colt he is too, full of character and quality, bigger, too, than he looks, for he is only just a shade under 15h.—an eighth of an inch I think—and is all "use." Clean all round, standing on short legs, and with good, sound feet. How much for this colt by Bayardo? Well, I do not know how much he will make, but he is to be sold—there is no reserve—and all I can add just now is to advise buyers to go and look at him. He is, by the way, out of Royal Marriage 3, by Pietermaritzburg (2) out of Royal Maze, by Royal Hampton 11. The suggestion to "go and look at him" is carried on to the next colt, chestnut in colour, and by William the Third (2) out of Risby 9, by Juggler 9 out of Cailleach. In fact, were it not for my own belief in Bayardo I am not sure that I should not prefer his colt even to Bayardo's son. A better-balanced colt, at all events, no one could wish to see; a rare walker he is too, very blood-like into the bargain, and beautifully bred as well, for, like Winkipop and Pilliwinkie, he is by William the Third out of a Juggler mare. Next comes a raking, powerful, big-boned colt by Radium (3) out of Ena 13, by San 23. Here are the



W. A. Rouch.

CHESTNUT FILLY BY WILLIAM THE THIRD—
LADY MELTON. (LANGTON HALL STUD.)

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CHESTNUT COLT BY SANTOI—BETROTHAL.
(THEAKSTON HALL STUD.)



W. A. Rouch.

BROWN FILLY BY SANTOI—ACTION.

(THEAKSTON HALL STUD.)



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CHESTNUT COLT BY MARCOVIL—CHALEUREUXNETTA.

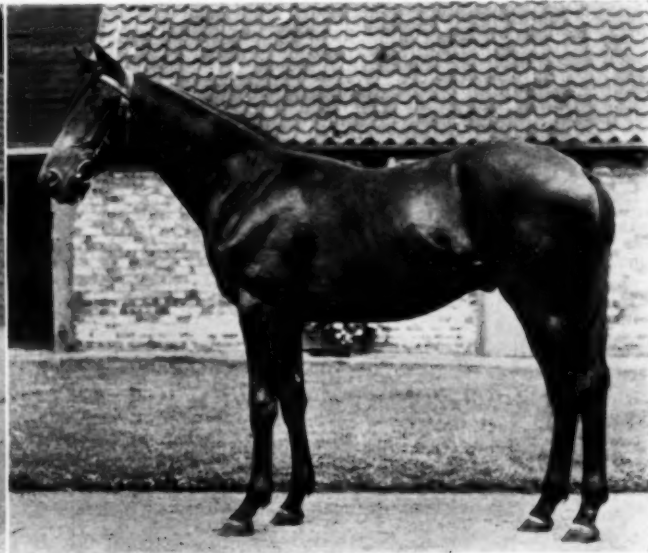
framework, make and shape of a good horse, and he will, I hope, go into a stable where he will be given plenty of time to furnish and develop before being asked to do too much. Under such circumstances I make no doubt that he will do well; not improbably he might turn out to be a "cup" horse one of these days. He shows, by the way, a marked resemblance to Stockwell, as well he may seeing that in his pedigree there are eight strains of Stockwell blood. Two other colts there are, one an own brother, by St. Serf out of Kentish Cherry, to that good-looking horse, Strickland; the other a well bred colt by Martagon out of Pretty Kittie (own sister to Sweet Katie, winner of well over two thousand sovereigns in stakes). This colt has a remarkably good forehead, and other good points as well. Now for the fillies. To begin with there is a great, fine filly by William the Third (2) out of Lady Melton 9, a grandly bred mare by Melton 8 out of Rigel, by Orion 13 out of Minera, by Hermit (5) or Galopin (3). What a brood mare she should make one of these days; she ought, too, to pay for herself before that day arrives, for with her fine scope and reach and undeniable class she ought to win races. Very different in type is the hard bay filly by Primer out of Fluke II. 8 (a mare tracing back to The Flying Dutchman). A nice quality, clean-limbed filly she is, well-ribbed and good both to meet and follow. There remains a smart brown filly by Skiograph (1) out of Lady Kate 16, a well-bred mare by Ladas (1) out of Catriona 16, by Bend Or (1) out of Bonny Jean (a winner of the Oaks). There is just time to have a look at Bona Rosa, by Bona Vista (4) out of Rose Madder 28, looking wonderfully fresh and well in the roomy paddock set apart for his use; we note, too, that with kindly consideration Captain Fife has provided him with a "fringe" to keep the flies away from his

eyes, and that it is time to continue our journey towards Theakston Hall, going a little out of our way to get some lunch at Catterick, and have a look at the three yearlings—there will, I hope, be more of them another year—which Mr. D. Cooper has to show us at Bainesse. A fine judge of bloodstock, Mr. Cooper himself likes best a big, loose-limbed colt by John o' Gaunt (1) out of Cousin Agnes 16, and about him there are great possibilities, but—I did not see her out—my own fancy was for his filly by Isinglass out of St. Natalia, by Common, for, apart from what she may do as a race-horse, she ought to be very valuable as a brood mare one of these days. The busy motor soon devours the road which lies between Bainesse and Theakston Hall, where we find Mr. McIntyre and a kindly welcome awaiting us. So, too, are the yearlings—six colts and two fillies—and we may, I think, say that they are a good, level lot of well bred, well grown youngsters. There is a great deal to like in the first we see, a nicely balanced bay colt by Llangrom 11 out of Sunshot 19, by Carbine (2). He meets you well, is good to follow and covers plenty of ground, and is quite a nice colt. Buyers will, no doubt, bear in mind that Llangrom was himself a good horse, and had won close on eleven thousand sovereigns in stakes when he retired to the stud in 1911, being then six years of age. Showing a marked resemblance to Manwolf, even to the dark marking on his quarters and his silvery tail, is a hard, active, racing-like colt, by Wolf's Crag 15 out of Galimatius (4) (out of Mandoreus, the dam of Manwolf). Most of Wolf Crag's stock won races some of them being possessed of a very fine turn of speed, and there is no reason whatever for thinking that the colt we have just sent back to his box will be anything but a credit to his sire.



W. A. Rouch.

MALONA, BAY FILLY BY WHITE EAGLE—BYEWAY.



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BROWN COLT BY DARK RONALD—AMELIA.

(COTTINGHAM STUD.)

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"How do you like this chap?" asks Mr. McIntyre, "this" being a chestnut colt by Marcovil 12 out of Chaleureuxnetta (2), by Chaleureux 15 out of Dogmatic, a beautifully bred mare by St. Simon 11 out of Dogma, by Wisdom 7. Well, he is a colt of good quality, standing on clean, short legs, has well-placed shoulders and nice rein, and presents a very business-like appearance, as will be seen by his picture. There is not much

a visitor, always stock worth looking at; and then there is Wilberforce. Mr. Simons Harrison's stud groom and right-hand man, Wilberforce knows a good deal about a good many things. I am by no means sure, by the way, that he will not eventually be entitled to receive a new hat from me, the point at issue between us being as to which is the better of the two fillies, the one by Land League (3) out of Bicarbone 11,



W. A. Rouch.

CHESTNUT FILLY BY BRIDGE OF CANNY—QUEEN WOOD.
(COTTINGHAM STUD.)

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CHESTNUT FILLY BY LALLY—V.R.

need to ask the name of the sire of the next that comes out, for, deep-bodied, burly, short-legged and big-boned, he is a Santoi all over. By Santoi he is, too, his dam Betrothal 17, by Royal Hampton 11 and herself the dam of Sponsor, a rare doer is this same colt, and will, I expect, need a lot of work when in training, but his legs will see him through. Different, widely different, in type is the big colt by St. Amant 14 out of Violent 12 (sister to Vrill), by Vitez 8, a remarkably bred horse in his way, inbred as he is in the first remove to the sire family No. 8, and combining the sire families No. 12 and No. 3 in the second remove, and inbred to the sire family No. 12 in the third remove. St. Amant, too, comes of a "sire" family, so that on account of his breeding alone it will be interesting to see what this colt may do. Next comes a big colt by Sir Harry (5) out of Ashstead's Pride 8, by Freak out of Lismaine (dam of Linacre). Then come two fillies, one a rich brown-coloured daughter of Santoi (1) and Action 8 (dam of Highstepper), quite an old-fashioned filly this of the low, long sort, racing-like to look at and with every probability of making up into a good brood mare later on. The other filly is interesting to me because she is the first yearling I have seen got by Holiday House, a horse for whom I have always had a sneaking regard. She is out of Floraline (5), and does credit to her sire. Holiday House himself we see, fresh as a kitten and full of the joy of living, as he looses himself in a free canter down the long paddock, and then, "turning on a sixpence," comes back in no end of a hurry to see if we have got a piece of sugar or a carrot for him. Alas! we have not, and with a snort of unmistakable chagrin he goes his way, we ours—in other words, back by road to Northallerton, thence to York and so by degrees to Cottingham, where Mr. J. Simons Harrison has promised to have the Cottingham Stud yearlings ready for what must be an all too hasty inspection, the more to be regretted that there is always much to interest

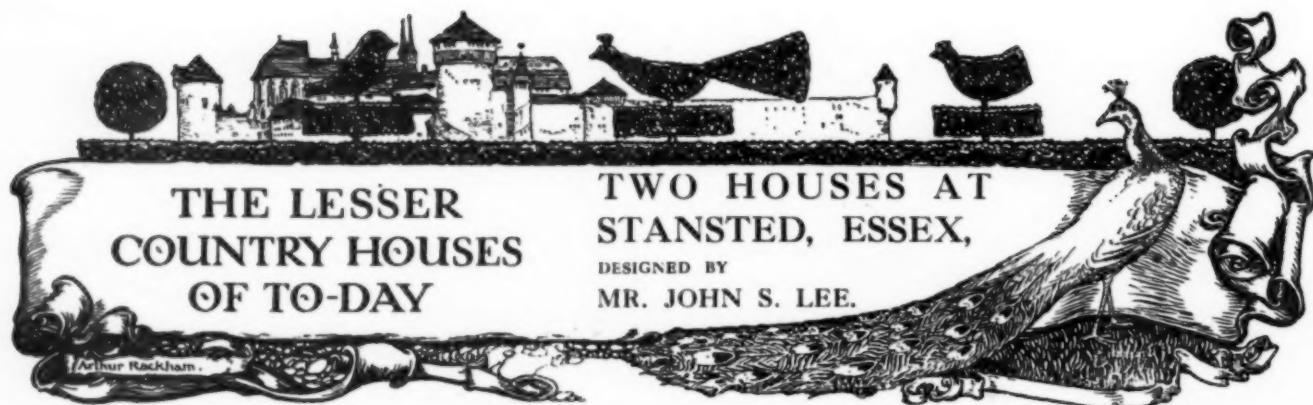
or the chestnut filly by White Eagle (5) out of Byeway (5), Wilberforce declaring in favour of the latter. Both, I think, are good fillies, but I retain my preference for the daughter of White Eagle; she has, by the way, been named Malona. I might add that, now that Desmond is dead, breeders will probably turn their attention to his son, Land League, a remarkably honest and consistent race-horse himself, and, moreover, judging by such of his stock as I have seen, likely to make a name for himself as a sire. The other Cottingham fillies are a great raking chestnut by Lally (1) out of V.R. 7, noticeable from her length from hip to hock and general racing-like appearance, and a good quality filly by Bridge of Canny 8 out of Queenwood (5), herself a winner, dam of winners and half-sister to the

Cambridgeshire winner, Ballantree. This filly has good heart room, muscular second thighs and shows quality. Dark Ronald's stock have done enough to draw attention to his good-looking, powerful colt by him out of Amelia 3 (an Amphion mare), herself a winner and going back to Tamarind, by King Tom (3) out of Mincemeat (a winner of the Oaks). This is a good racing pedigree, and I think the colt will live up to it. The next to come out is a nice class, level colt by Radium (3) out of Shy Missie 21, for he is well let down and has good back and loins. A sharp, early to hand chestnut colt by Llangibby 19 out of Quadroon (1), comes next, and is followed by the last of the lot—last but not perhaps the least, for the brown son of Bridge of Canny and Curlew (dam of Grimmet) is a free mover, and is

CHESTNUT COLT BY NEIL GOW—PRINCESS MALEEN.
(ADSTOCK MANOR STUD.)

lacking neither in bone nor quality. Next week, all being well, I shall deal with the yearlings at Sledmere, Worksop Manor and one or two smaller studs, bringing this week's notes to an end with mention of the exceptionally good-looking, well-grown colt by Neil Gow out of Princess Maleen, which Mr. C. M. Prior is sending to Doncaster with others from the Adstock Manor Stud.

T. H. B.



GORSEFIELD and Hawthorns are two neighbouring houses at Stansted of practically identical accommodation—four sitting-rooms and seven bedrooms. Variation in the nature and aspects of the two sites, however, caused a marked difference in the disposition of the rooms. Gorsefield is laid down on an obtuse-angled plan which has become somewhat popular of late years, and Mr. Lee has avoided the difficulties into which a departure from rectangular rooms

used as a garden lobby. The vestibule occupies the internal angle on the entrance side.

Hawthorns is planned on more ordinary lines. The house is gabled and the upper storey covered with elm weather



PLANS OF GORSEFIELD.



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GORSEFIELD: ENTRANCE FRONT.

"COUNTRY LIFE."

often drives the designer. The triangular pieces of floor space which are inevitable when the two wings do not meet at a right angle are well used. One is absorbed on the ground floor by the fireplaces of kitchen and dining-room, and the other is

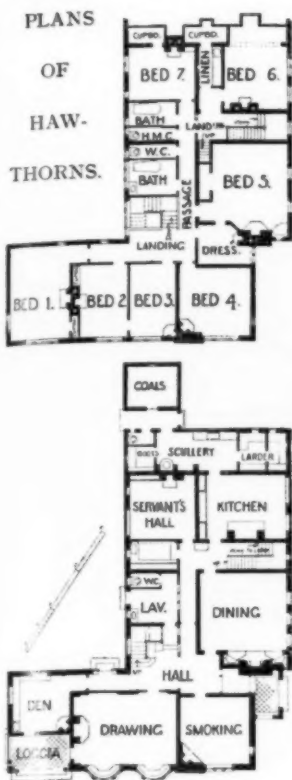
boarding. It is customary in such a house to employ casement windows, but Mr. Lee has used the liberty which Mr. Philip Webb's example has made familiar, and put large sliding sashes in almost all the openings. In the result all the rooms are very



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GORSEFIELD: GARDEN FRONT.

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HAWTHORNS, STANSTED: THE ENTRANCE FRONT.

"COUNTRY LIFE."

well lighted, a point to which the owner of the house attached great importance. It is sometimes held that certain types of façade demand definite types of windows, that houses with gables and other characteristics of mediæval and Tudor building should be fitted always with casements, that houses with detail reminiscent of Charles II.'s reign should also have casements, and that Georgian building demands the sliding sash alone. There seems no good reason for laying down such limiting rules as these. Modern design is justified by its success, both practical and æsthetic, and if a gabled and weatherboarded house can be made to look well, as Hawthorns does, with sliding sashes, the admixture must, *ipso facto*, be adjudged a proper one. The time has gone by when architecture is to be restrained by the dead hand.

L. W.

AGRICULTURAL NOTES.

THE SCOTTISH AGRICULTURAL RETURNS.

THE first issue of Agricultural Returns for Scotland has just seen the light, being three or four months later than the English Returns. Part I., Vol. 1, deals with acreage of crops and live stock, and follows the lines adopted by the English Board in almost every particular. There is an entire lack of novelty in the style and construction of the Report, and it gives the same information as to Scotch agricultural affairs which we have been accustomed to receive; but those who have to refer to the statistics will have to search through two volumes instead of one. Personally, I could never understand what advantage was likely to accrue to agriculturists or the public generally from the establishment of a separate Board, and certainly the cost is much greater. The work of the new Board was, of course, rendered easier by having a good model to imitate, and good use has been made of it in the drawing up of the Report for 1912. It is rather unfortunate that the Live Stock Report should have to start with such a gloomy account of reduction in numbers. Of horses there were fewer by 1,207; of cattle the decrease was 15,641; of sheep, 159,975; and of pigs, 11,988. As regards cattle it should be said that the number in 1911 was 30,000 over that of 1910, so that too much significance need not be attached to last year's decrease, especially as it can be accounted for by the dry summer of 1911, which caused so many cattle to be prematurely slaughtered. The decrease in sheep was chiefly confined to younger sheep, those kept for breeding showing only a trifling decrease. Scottish pig breeding was apparently in a bad way last year, for breeding sows diminished by 11½ per cent. Perhaps the most surprising statement in the Report is the increase in permanent pasture in Aberdeenshire, extending as it did to 11,123 acres. We in the South picture Aberdeenshire as about the most highly cultivated county in Great Britain, with soil so rich that bullocks will fatten on the oat straw and turnips that it produces. It would be interesting to know



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"HAWTHORNS" FROM THE WEST.

"C.L."

the real cause of such forsaking of the plough. It is scarcely a sign of agricultural prosperity in the land of the "Doddies."

THE DROUGHT AND THE MARKETS.

Though far less severe than that of 1911, the drought of the present summer threatens to be scarcely less disastrous in some respects. It may well, indeed, be doubted if the prospects of the turnip crop are any better than they were two years ago. The mischief was done at what should have been planting time. The long spell of wet weather in the spring was followed by sudden dryness, and the land became baked and cindery, so that it was useless to sow the seed, and many large and good farmers failed to get any swedes planted at all. Even mangolds are very late and thin in the ground, and, altogether, the look-out for next winter's sheep feed could scarcely be worse. On the credit side we have an excellent crop of hay of good quality, so that there will be no absolute starvation such as that which was threatened in the winter of 1911 and was only averted by the extraordinary mildness of the winter months. This gloomy prospect for the turnip crop, however, is beginning to affect the sheep trade, while the state of the pastures, now getting bare and brown over nearly all Britain, is causing glutted markets of cattle and a decided fall in prices. A soaking rain of many hours' duration would save the situation, but if long delayed we may say good-bye to all hope of that increase in our flocks and herds which is so desirable and likely to be realised.

A. T. M.

RAISING THE PRICE OF MILK.

There is a very curious dispute in Bristol at present. At the beginning of the month the producing farmers, by reason of the persistent drought that has prevailed in the West and the consequent diminution in the yield of milk, felt that they were entitled to ask for a rise in the price of milk from the retailers.

The latter demurred at rising the price of milk in August when a large portion of the population was at the seaside, and if there was a shortage they could readily obtain accommodation milk near London, as rains had fallen in the Eastern Counties and London was not short. It came out in the discussion that farmers were only receiving from sixpence to eightpence per gallon, and that some consumers were paying fourpence per quart. The retailers are very wrath at the wholesale men giving away the prices. The farmers state that if their demands are not conceded they will start a co-operative movement in the meantime. After these recriminations a joint meeting of wholesalers and retailers has been arranged for the end of the month, and it will probably result in the consumer having to pay. Farmers are not having a grand time at present, as many of them have to feed their cattle with hay or artificials, the latter in consequence having risen considerably in value.

ELDRED WALKER.

HUNTING NOTES

AUGUST CUB-HUNTING FROM THE HUNTSMAN'S POINT OF VIEW.

THE early harvest will enable hounds to get to work a week or two earlier than usual. The Southdown have already killed a cub, and by the time this is in print the Cottesmore will have begun the long process of rattling the foxes in their extensive and well-preserved woodlands.

A few days ago I had the opportunity of discussing early cub-hunting with a huntsman who is also a noted breeder of hounds. To him, I think, hunting exists chiefly for his hounds, and it is from their point of view that he regards the chase. It was early morning, and he was out for exercise, a most excellent opportunity of looking over a pack of hounds. I am fond of going out for a long trot with hounds in the early morning; this exercise improves my condition, and one learns a great deal about the hounds. On the occasion of which I am writing the point under discussion was August cub-hunting. I suggested that litters were too young in August, and that the slaughter of cubs at this time, or, as in some few cases, before July was ended, was a waste of fox-life. The huntsman's reply was: "That depends on the season. Young foxes are far more advanced in some seasons than they are in others. This year we have had dry weather and the litters have thriven. Like all other young things, cubs go back in wet and cold weather. In such weather as we have had they are much out in the open air. They play a great deal in the early mornings. They begin to hunt early in life, and they are, I believe, now stronger and more active than litters in this country are in some seasons a month later. But early cub-hunting is a good thing for young hounds. The first two or three hunts make all the difference to the young hounds. To go out hunting cheers them up. Young hounds which as puppies have had their liberty find kennel life dull, and the long trots on the road under restraint, which are, as you know, necessary to condition, grow wearisome to them. Some hounds become dull, others sulky. Kennel discipline is not always judicious, and to a hound which has had full liberty cannot but be irksome. I say, take them out and give them a short hunt as early as possible. It is like a holiday to a boy; besides, it exercises them. A hound works a lot of muscles drawing for and chasing the cubs. Above all, it works its mind, which has had little occupation in kennels. I think when he is not doing anything, exercise or work or the like, a hound is always remembering or looking forward. Hounds have wonderful memories. When Squire B.'s son, the Captain, was a boy, he was always about the kennels, and he was for ever riding about on his pony with their own puppies and any others he could pick up, and playing at hunting them. Well, there was one hound, Traveller—the badger pie with the course stern close to my horse; he was, as a puppy, always about with the young Squire. After Traveller was entered he always knew his young master on the road and at the meet. The Captain never failed to have a word for him and maybe a bit of biscuit. Well, the old hound did not see him for three years—the Captain was with his regiment in India or somewhere. We lent old Traveller to the — and it happened the Captain was staying in the neighbourhood and went out cub-hunting. Old Traveller went straight up to him and said 'How do you do?' and how glad he was to see him as plain as any Christian. But I've got away from the cub-hunting. I like it little and often for the young hounds. Take 'em out, but never tire them. Two hours is enough. A tired hound is always a bad hound, and sometimes a vicious one. Lots of skeeters and jealous ones are made by over-tiring the youngsters. Take 'em out, kill a cub and scatter a litter (as a rule, to kill one in a litter is enough for one day), and take 'em home. Then come out again soon enough for them not to forget what they've learned." X.

KENNEL NOTES.

THE HOMING INSTINCT.

THE letter in COUNTRY LIFE the other week, wherein a correspondent offered a solution of the homing phenomena sometimes observed in dogs and cats, interested me a good deal, for I have often thought over the subject without reaching any definite opinion in my own mind. Frankly, I am not convinced that scent enters largely into the matter. However favourable the wind from the proper quarter, by the time an animal was near enough home to use his nose to advantage he would also be in country familiar to him by sight. At present, therefore, I am in the position of recognising a fact for which no feasible explanation has been advanced. Considering the receptiveness of the dog's brain to natural objects, is it possible that the position of the morning and evening sun conveys a general sense of direction? This is merely a hypothesis which may at once be shattered into shreds under the examination of a scientifically trained mind. One thing is perfectly plain—animals and insects must be endowed with perceptive faculties altogether beyond the ken of the human mind. Bates, in his incomparable "Naturalist on the Amazon," laboured this point very well after observing carefully the habits of sandwasps (*Bembex ciliata*). As these small persons work, a number of little jets of sand are seen shooting over the surface of the sloping bank. The female, after excavating a gallery two or three inches in length, backs out and takes a few turns round the orifice, for the purpose, the naturalist believed, of noting the locality so that it could be found again. On rising in the air, also, she would circle round the spot several times, as if with the same object, and then she would set off in search of a fly, in whose body she would deposit an egg. A larger species excavates its mine on sand-banks recently laid bare in the middle of the river, closes the orifice, and makes a flight of at least half a mile before it can obtain its prey. Bates says: "I am convinced that the insects noted the bearings of their nests and the direction they took in flying from them. The proceedings in this and similar cases (I have read of something analogous having been noticed in hive bees) seems to be a mental act of the same nature as that which takes place in ourselves when recognising a locality. The senses, however, must be immeasurably more keen and the mental operations much more certain in them than it is in man; for to my eye there was absolutely no landmark on the even surface of sand which could serve as a guide, and the borders of the forest were not nearer than half a mile. The action of the wasp would be said to be instinctive; but it seems plain that the instinct is no mysterious and unintelligible agent, but a mental process in each individual, differing from the same in man only by its unerring certainty."

REMARKABLE MEMORY.

As a similar sense of locality seems almost instinctive among savages, one is driven to the conclusion that in some senses the untutored mind is at an advantage over that of civilised man, the reason probably being that the higher we advance in the scale of intelligence, the greater number of subjects occupy our thoughts. The dog, one imagines, has few things about which to think, and in consequence his brain is sensitive to impressions that almost entirely escape ours. In speaking of the path-finding instinct, one almost invariably cites the case of the homing pigeon; but here we have in the most marked degree an example of objects noted and remembered. A pigeon destined to participate in a certain race is flown by easy stages over the route, in order that the way may become clear to it. What is the range of vision of one of these birds flying at a considerable altitude it is impossible to say, but in clear weather it must be very great. The other evening, with unaided eye, I was able to distinguish clearly the outlines of the Isle of Man, a good sixty miles from the Welsh hill upon which I was standing. Of course, a dog has no such aid as this, for it is scarcely likely that he would seek a considerable elevation for the purpose of taking his bearings, even if such happened to be near by. I have noticed that in many cases a considerable time has been occupied on the journey, which suggests that the devoted animal had wandered many weary miles before reaching the haven for which he yearned. A well-authenticated story appeared in the papers of a year or two back concerning a dog who was sent by sea from London to Swansea. There he was missed from the boat, and three or four months later he appeared at his old quarters in Hackney. On the other hand, Mr. C. H. Lane has told of a sheepdog covering forty miles in the course of a single night over country which he had never traversed before. Undoubtedly some dogs are much more sensible than others. But these instances assist little in the problem—how it is that dogs are able to cover miles of unknown country without losing their way?

A. CROXTON SMITH.



THE PROSPECTS OF THE COMING PARTRIDGE SEASON.

IF we consider the important part that our game birds have come to play in the rural economy of this country, the millions spent every year in rearing pheasants, preserving partridges, and on the management of moors, besides the enormous sums paid as rent for the thousands of shootings that figure in the agents' lists each year, and the welcome money that circulates in remote districts through the presence of the shooting tenant, we may well wonder why no official recognition of this important interest has ever been sanctioned, no regular department organised to investigate and advise on all subjects connected with the preservation of game. It may seem absurd to some to suggest such a course of action on behalf of a mere amusement; but such an objection is really beside the mark. Men who can make money will spend it on recreation, and it is beyond doubt desirable for the welfare of our country districts that rich men should come and take the shootings rather than spend their spare time and money abroad.

The grouse has, indeed, received due attention through the labours of a Commission, officially appointed, but entirely supported by private

that must engage our attention in this respect comprise most of the great partridge centres in England, and almost exactly similar reports come from most of Norfolk, Suffolk and Essex; parts of Cambridgeshire, Huntingdon, Bedfordshire, Herts, Sussex, Staffordshire, Shropshire, Derbyshire, Notts, most of Yorkshire and South Northumberland. On hundreds of partridge manors throughout this wide area the year opened with a good stock of birds on the ground, in most cases healthy enough, and apparently in good condition for the nesting season. The nests were well filled and the hatch was uncommonly good, the coveys averaging from twelve to sixteen. The heavy growth of the hay crops made protection of nests difficult, and thus more than usual were cut out; but apart from this and a few local thunderstorms, almost everyone was well pleased with the state of affairs at the end of June. The weather conditions had been favourable, and all seemed to promise fair for a right good season. July opened cold, sunless and unusually dry, and heavy mortality was soon noticeable among the young birds. All over the counties we have mentioned the coveys began to dwindle away, until soon they were reduced to only three or



S. H. Smith.

CROSSING THE ROOTS TO THE STUBBLE.

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enterprise, and there is now urgent need of companion volumes to the "Grouse in Health and Disease," dealing with the pheasant and the partridge. In the case of the pheasant there is no doubt at all as to the need of expert enquiry into the diseases that beset the rearing-field; troubles endemic and epidemic at times carry off thousands of young birds among the crowded coops, and few keepers, however capable, get the chance of learning to distinguish between enteric and coccidiosis, or to recognise the more obscure diseases that sometimes play havoc among their charges, such as myiosis, pneumonia and the like. The case of the partridge is rather different; until this year most of us—including almost all the leading authorities on partridges and their preservation—were inclined to regard the partridge as a singularly healthy bird, and to look on the widespread dearth of stock as entirely due to a long succession of cold and wet summers. Those who talked of partridge disease were looked on as alarmists, and the general informed opinion on the subject was that good weather would be all that was wanted to set matters right. The whole question now falls to be reconsidered in the light of recent events. The good season has come, if only in a modified form, and yet the partridges are not what they should be. The districts

four young birds. There must be good reason for this general failure of the coveys to maintain their numbers, and we may first give the causes to which various estates attribute the mortality.

NOTES FROM SOME ESTATES THAT HAVE SUFFERED.

- (1) *Hampshire*.—Partridges very patchy after a very good hatch. Weather has been favourable, but coveys have dwindled from twelve to six or eight. An average season now expected. Attributed to low rainfall in summer and absence of insect-life.
- (2) *Cambridgeshire East*.—A good lot of partridges till July, but then the young birds began to die, and now there is only half a crop on the best ground, and not that on the heavy land. Attributed to fortnight of very cold nights in July.
- (3) *Herts*.—Coveys slowly dwindling after a wonderful hatch. Attributed to cold, dull weather in July.
- (4) *Suffolk*.—Wonderful hatch; young birds dropping off ever since. Not more than two or three seen in a covey now, and many old birds without young. Attributed to cold, sunless summer.
- (5) *Norfolk (Thetford)*.—Most of the young partridges have died. Attributed to the very dry weather.
- (6) *Norfolk (Norwich)*.—Good hatch, but young partridges died in numbers at beginning of July, and many barren old birds seen. Wild pheasants have done very well. Attributed to lack of insects and ants'-eggs. No signs of gapes.

(7) *West Norfolk*.—Rather less than half a crop in the district, after a wonderful hatch and good weather. Birds are still dying. Attributed to drought at first, and later mortality to gapes.

(8) *Derbyshire*.—Coveys hatched splendidly, but now reduced from teens to single numbers. Attributed to drought.

(9) *Yorkshire*.—There has never been a more favourable season for partridges; no storms or heavy rains. There were any number of coveys of fourteen to eighteen, but they have gradually died off, and are now only five or six, and in many places are still going. Attributed to cold and want of rain; but only for want of a better reason.

(10) *South Northumberland*.—The young birds have been dying in numbers, and coveys of fifteen and sixteen are reduced to three and four. Attributed to drought.

(11) *Midlothian*.—A fair hatch, though short of nests. Coveys have been dwindling in July. Attributed to long-continued drought; no insect life.

These reports certainly point to little mystery in this widespread mortality; but we have now to consider the notes of some very close and careful observers, who are not satisfied that the explanation is so simple as would appear from the above. All except the last are owners or head-keepers on first-class partridge ground.

(1) *West Norfolk*.—"After watching things very closely I confess that, as regards this estate, I am beat. It has certainly been rather a sunless and cold summer here, but nothing that one would have expected to hurt the birds—yet there are none! I believe in many parts it will be as bad as 1910. The reason generally given for the mortality is the cold, dry weather and want of insect life. This may be the cause in some places, but here we have never suffered from want of insect life, as I could prove by the behaviour of the pheasants on the rearing field. A story was told me to-day—for the truth of which I cannot vouch—that some of the birds that had been picked up dead in Norfolk were pronounced by an expert to have died, not of gapes, but of 'thrush in the throat.' This, if true, is evidently going to be a new terror for partridge preservers; at the same time, it may possibly explain the mysterious disappearance of good coveys when everything seemed to be in their favour."

(2) *Notts*.—"Partridges here are very unsatisfactory; quite half of the old birds have no young at all. We had a very wet winter and spring, which, in my opinion, caused partridges to be late in laying and to produce eggs both undersized and small in quantity. Young birds were weak when hatched, and in many cases some of the covey grew away, while others made no growth at all and died. Several coveys have been found dead, old and young together—in one instance two old and fifteen young birds three weeks old. At another time six old birds were found lying dead together, apparently having all died in one night, which made the keeper on the beat think that they had been poisoned and there have been a number of odd birds through the whole season 'gone poor' and died. I have noticed a few cases of roup. The weather has been all that could be desired for a record crop of birds. Some say that the failure is due to want of insects, etc., but from the above notes you can see that there has been disease."

(3) *Suffolk*.—"The partridges on this estate and round about are very bad indeed this season, although last year we made a record. The birds have been dying ever since the spring of a wasting disease. They seem to die of starvation, with a horny substance on their tongues similar to fowls with the 'pip.'"

(4) *Herts*.—"Partridges nested early with us, laying an average of fifteen, and hatching nearly every one. A heavy thunderstorm drowned some of the early birds in June, and since then gapes have played havoc among both young and old. A spell of fine, warm weather gave them a good start, but the cold of July was too much for them. I cannot help thinking that the partridges in Herts are not so strong and healthy as our Scotch birds, or the old English stock. Their constitution seems to have been spoiled somehow, whether by the introduction of Hungarians, or by the want of green and turnip crops."

(5) *Sussex*.—"I cannot tell you much about the partridges in West Sussex, beyond the fact that in most places they are very bad. The birds nested well, the weather has been very good on the whole, no heavy showers in the first few days of early life, and yet the young partridges seem simply to disappear."

Little comment is necessary on these notes, although it is interesting to remark how the contributor of No. 3—a head-keeper of marked ability—has found reason to change his opinion since he wrote in 1911:

"I consider the failure of partridges in recent years to be due entirely to bad weather, as we were never short of partridges when the weather has been good."

So far we have only dealt with the failures, and it must be remembered that the corn is not yet all cut, and that the prospects may not be quite so black as they are painted, even where things seem to have gone very badly. Nor have all estates fared alike, even in the districts most affected by the troubles of July, for some good reports come from places like Huntingdon, Bedfordshire, Cambridge, and isolated spots in East Anglia. For the rest, there seems fair hope of a good season in Wilts, Berkshire, North Northumberland, the Border Counties of Scotland, Elgin, Perthshire and Forfarshire; but the year will chiefly be memorable for what it might have been had the promise of the best hatch ever known been fulfilled.

THE HOT WEATHER AGAINST DOGGING.

THE weather during the early part of last week has been rather against dogging. It was extremely hot, and scent was bad. Latterly, however, there has been some much-needed rain, and birds are getting wilder. It is extraordinary, the difference which even one week will make in the appearance of a young covey. It scarcely seems possible that the immature "squeakers" which rose

somewhat pathetically before the guns on the Twelfth are the same birds which now rise so strongly and swiftly almost out of shot. Inverness-shire on the whole continues to do well. Balmacaan has not, of course, been shot, nor Abriachan, but driving will begin next month. The prospects at Moy, as I have already said, are good, and average bags should be got. Meallmore was shot last week and good bags were made, 350 brace being killed in one day—a pretty fair indication of what may be expected on The Mackintosh's other moor. Coignafearn has done very well. Six guns in five days' shooting killed 602½ brace, and birds are plentiful and wild. I hear, incidentally, that some stags here were seen clean so early as August 11th, but they are usually among the first. Captain Combe and his party on the 12th had eighty brace. On the small moors of Ness Castle sport has been good, and prospects at Dunmaglass are also very encouraging. At Gaick, between the 12th and 19th, 512 brace were killed. It will be interesting to see if Messrs. Hargreaves keep up their fine record now that dogs are being abandoned and driving taking their place. At Drumor 700 brace were killed in seven days over dogs.

THE ROYAL PARTY ON THE GEALLAIG MOORS.

The Royal party, on the 19th, on Geallaig Moors (Aberdeenshire), consisting of eight guns, killed 182 brace. Birds are said to be numerous. The sport at Delnadamph is good, and also at Ballogie. At Lickleyhead, on the 17th, five guns got forty-seven brace. Driving began at Glenfiddich (Banffshire) on the 20th, when eight guns, including the Earl of March, Lord Esmé and Lord Bernard Gordon-Lennox, killed ninety-six brace. Shooting in Perthshire is fairly good on the whole. The scarcity of water on some moors is getting serious, and the birds are beginning to pick already. On the 20th, at Cringlatie, Sir George Sutherland's party got seventy-one and a-half brace; and at the Barracks (Rannoch) four guns killed, on the 16th (over dogs), ninety-one and a-half brace; on the 18th, ninety-two and a-half brace; and on the 19th, two guns, shooting for a short time, got forty brace.

PROSPECTS FOR BLACK-GAME AND STAGS.

The prospects for black-game are good, whereas in parts of Inverness-shire they are very poor. At Edradour, on the 18th, Mr. Howard Gould's party killed 135½ brace. On the 19th, at Meggernie, three guns got ninety-three and a-half brace and three brace of ptarmigan. On Appin and Foss five guns, on the 21st, killed 206½ brace. In Ross-shire sport is fair. On the 20th, Mr. D. Vickers' party (six guns) killed sixty-eight brace. A few stags have been killed, but nothing of any importance. In most forests they are not yet fit to shoot, but prospects of sport are more favourable than was at first anticipated. Two eight-pointers were killed at Fasnakyle on the 12th. FRANK WALLACE.

THE DROUGHT IN SCOTLAND.

The drought, which has continued practically unbroken in Scotland from June 15th, is beginning to exercise a baneful effect in every division of rural economy. In the Western and Central Counties grouse are suffering considerably from lack of pure water, and on most estates a number of birds have died in consequence of drinking out of stagnant pools in dried-up streams. Everywhere, the unusual spectacle is now to be seen of keepers traversing the moors with spades for the purpose of digging open the cress-fringed springs which are fairly plentiful on most uplands. Seldom is it necessary to clean out these sources of supply, because the streams and rivulets are always sufficient for the needs of birds and beasts. For the last few weeks, however, not only have the streams dwindled to the tiniest trickles, but the majority of the springs have become perfectly dry. It therefore happens in many cases that any water available among the heather is deficient in quantity and tainted in quality. Deer do not suffer appreciably for want of "something to drink," for, unlike grouse, they move about a good deal and find their way to tarns and lakes, where they can always slake their thirst. The herbage, however, is in many places burned up, and the grazing area considerably reduced. It is only in the moorland bogs and damp corries that grass continues to be fairly abundant. Heather makes a superb display in all parts of the country. Both stags and hinds are at present in excellent condition, and in point of weight and heads the former should well satisfy the ordinary stalker. Fish seem to have suffered more from the effects of the drought than even grouse. In many rivers the mortality has been heavy, and, of course, an up-rush of fish from the sea is impossible. In one pool of the Forth—at the point nearest to Abbey Craig—no fewer than fifteen dead salmon were counted at one time. Both angling and net-fishing have, for some time back, yielded poor results. The case of the Forth is possibly exceptional; but most Scottish waters have received a serious set-back. A. H.

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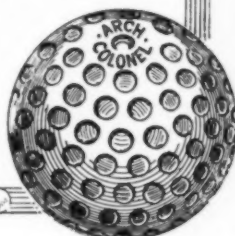
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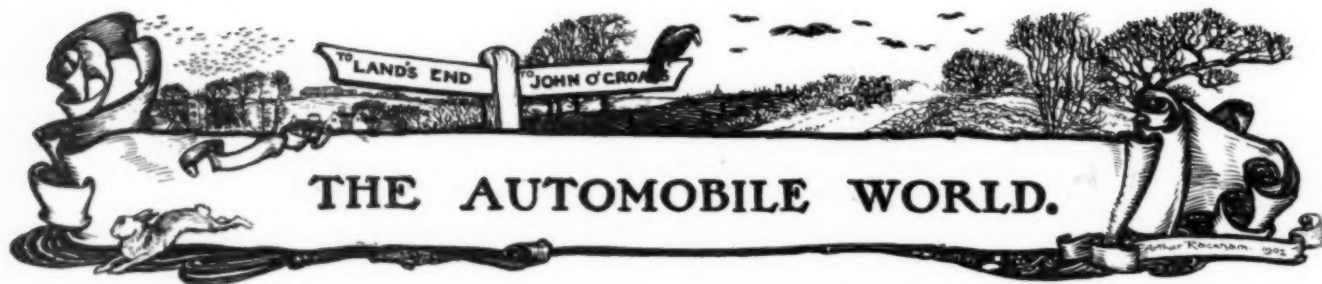
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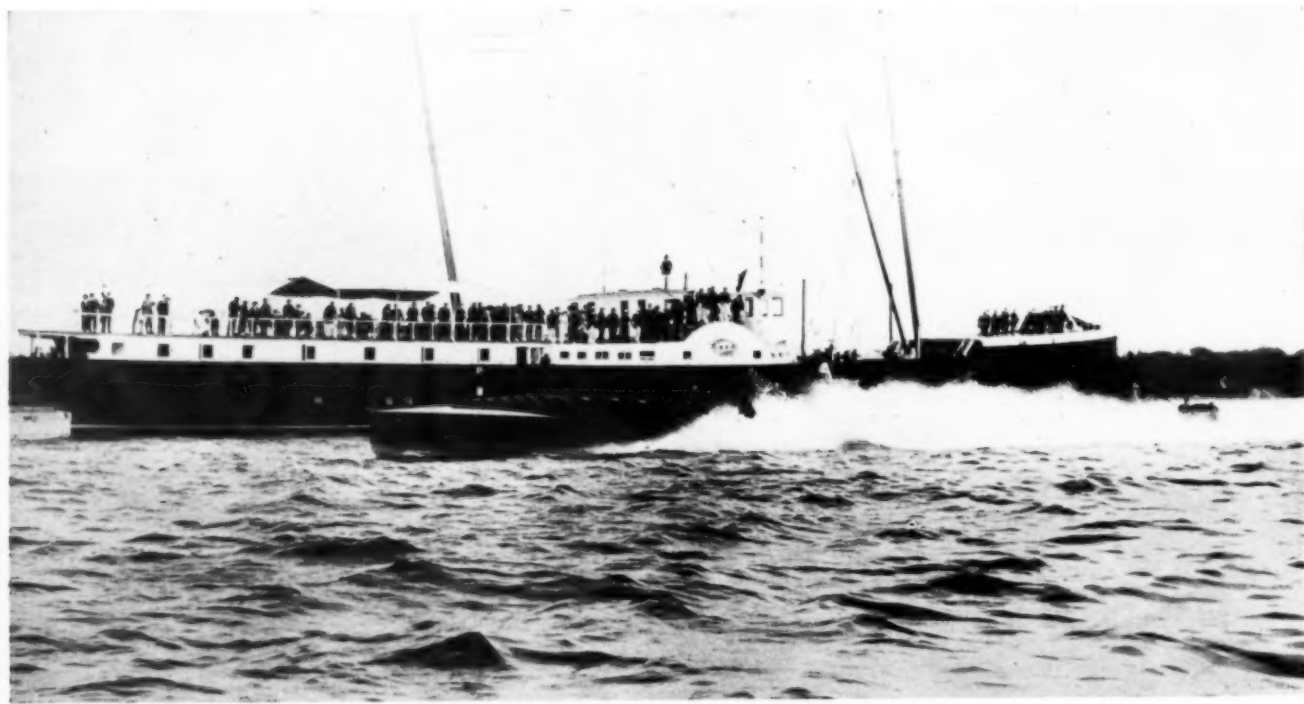
RANDOM COMMENT.

THE tendency is so great nowadays for International cups and trophies to pass from this country into the more or less permanent custody of other nations that no little interest attaches to the efforts of a few enthusiasts to prevent the British International Trophy for motor-boats joining the procession across the seas. The trophy in question has had a fairly chequered career, as it has been held by France and the United States, the latter having succeeded in retaining possession of it from 1907 till last year when, after a series of unsuccessful challenges, it was brought back to its native home. This year both France and the United States have issued challenges to the present holders, the Royal Motor Yacht Club, and a contest of considerable interest is likely to be witnessed on September 10th, when the series of races for the trophy commences in Osborne Bay.

The first opportunity of gauging the capabilities of the defenders was afforded on Saturday last, when the Royal Motor Yacht Club held an eliminating trial to select three boats from the six which are competing for places in the British team. The result was encouraging so far as it went, but a further trial will be necessary before the committee can be in a position to complete the team as two boats were absentees owing to lack of preparedness, and two of the four which competed were obviously running below their best form. Both *Maple Leaf IV.* and *Crusader*, however, showed an excellent turn of speed, and absolute reliability in the rough sea which was running at the mouth of Southampton Water, and well deserved the places in the team which were given to them after the race. *Maple Leaf IV.* is the huge hydroplane which won back the trophy last year in the races at Huntingdon Bay, and is probably the fastest boat ever seen in English waters. She is likely to meet a formidable rival, however, in *Isme*, Mr. Albert Vickers' new boat, which was one of the absentees from Saturday's event, but is to be given an opportunity of displaying her form on September 6th, when the second eliminating trial will be held. If *Isme's* speed is as high as expected she can hardly fail to be given a place in the British team, which will then have a good chance of victory in any weather.

The "dark horses" are the French boats, of which very little definite is known. There are rumours, however, that they have achieved some very high speeds, and the French are said to be quietly confident of victory. Two, if not three, boats are apparently certain to be present, and it is a good thing for the sport that France is once more taking an interest in an event which it won on one occasion but has since neglected. The American team has been shipped, but no announcement has been made in regard to its composition. Misfortunes, however, seem to have pursued the best of the would-be challengers from the States, and the rumours of dissensions between the American clubs may have prevented the late holders of the trophy from sending over the best that the country can produce in the way of speed boats. Nevertheless, if all goes well, the races next month are certain to provide a spectacle of a unique character, as, given fine weather and smooth water, some phenomenal speeds and very close finishes are certain to be witnessed.

After the big racers had been put through their paces on Saturday the spectators were given a chance of witnessing one of the many utilitarian aspects of motor-boating, as a race was held for motor dinghys fitted with detachable engines. The contest between the complicated installations of six hundred or seven hundred horse-power and the tiny self-contained motors which can be attached to the stern of an ordinary rowing-boat by means of a thumbscrew was very striking and seemed to appeal to the onlookers. The detachable marine engine of from 1 h.p. to 2 h.p. has been developed into a thoroughly practical and reliable device, and yachting men are beginning to appreciate its value. Thanks to this invention, it is now possible to convert any yacht's dinghy into a serviceable motor tender at a cost of £20, or even less, and the consequent saving in labour is a great boon to the owner who sails single-handed or with only one man as crew. Engine, ignition gear, circulating pump, propeller and fuel tank are all comprised in one unit, which can be handled with ease by one man and bolted to the transom of the boat, or removed when not required for use, in a few minutes. Ten years ago only large yachts were able to aspire



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to the dignity of a power launch. Nowadays, any small sailing yacht which can carry or tow a dinghy can enjoy all the advantages of a motor boat, as the detachable motor, which only weighs about eighty pounds complete, can be stowed in a case on deck until it is required for use.

A good deal of publicity has been given to a case in which a bench of magistrates are reported to have decided that a chauffeur is not a domestic servant and therefore not subject to the usual month's notice to which a person in domestic service is entitled by fixed custom. There is very little doubt that the decision, if correctly reported, is bad law, and that it would be quite unsafe for an employer to place any reliance upon it in the event of a dispute in regard to the point. There is nothing, however, to prevent one fixing the period of notice to be given on either side when a chauffeur is engaged, and, for my own part, I consider that a week or a fortnight is quite long enough to be tied to a man who has proved to be unsuitable for some reason or other. Ordinary domestic servants who do not come up to one's particular standard of efficiency can generally be tolerated during the customary month's notice, but if a chauffeur shows lack of skill in looking after or driving a car it is obviously desirable to get rid of him in the shortest possible time for the sake of one's own safety and to prevent probable damage

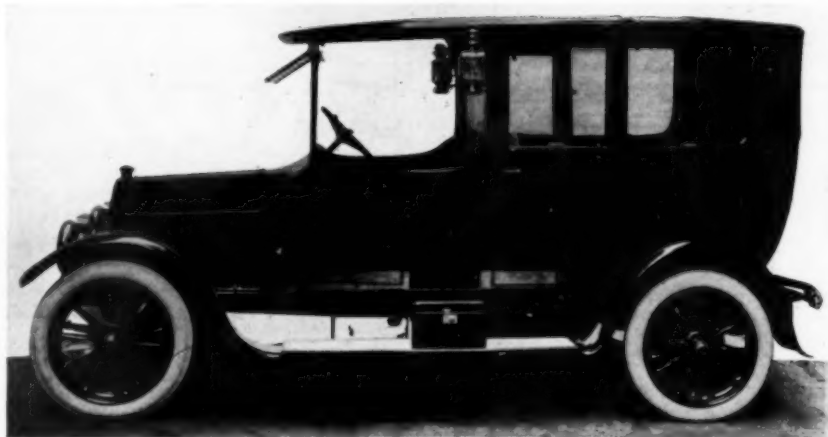


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to valuable property. It is, therefore, important to settle quite definitely before a man is engaged the length of notice to be given, instead of leaving the matter open to possible dispute in the future.

Those tire-makers who are introducing what are known as "over-size" tires are conferring a boon on the numerous motorists whose cars are under-tired. There are probably thousands of cars on the road at the present time which would be more comfortable to use and cost less to maintain if they were fitted with tires of a larger size. A few motorists realise the fact, but are deterred from making a change by the expense of fitting new rims to their wheels. The majority of owners, however, accept with resignation what the car-maker has given them, and merely wonder at the extent of their tire bills. It is now possible to obtain say 135m.m. covers to fit 120m.m. rims, and in the majority of cases the slight extra cost of the larger size will be more than repaid by increased comfort, economy, and immunity from tire trouble. The results obtained may not be quite so satisfactory as when full-sized rims are fitted, but any motorist who has a lurking suspicion that he is not getting a fair mileage out of his tires would be well advised to try the "over-size" covers for a time and compare results under the heads mentioned. I have had no personal experience of the new covers, but can speak with conviction of the extravagance of an under-tired



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SOME TOURING REMINISCENCES.

AMONG recent publications "My Motor Milestones," by the Baroness Campbell von Laurentz (Herbert Jenkins), is a record of several tours in this country and abroad undertaken in a variety of cars from a Locomobile to a Rolls-Royce. On the whole, the book is too sketchy to be either good reading or very useful to the would-be tourist *en automobile*, and the authoress has not been altogether happy in her choice of detail, uninteresting incidents being recorded at some length, while information which would be of great value is omitted. The most interesting and original part of the book is the opening chapter, which contains many useful hints about foreign touring, besides all necessary information with regard to the transportation of the car, the Customs arrangements, etc. Lady readers will find her suggestions about luggage when on tour of great assistance, and her hotel information is valuable and quite a feature of the little book, and one to be commended to the notice

of other writers who do not usually mention inns by name, either in praise or condemnation.

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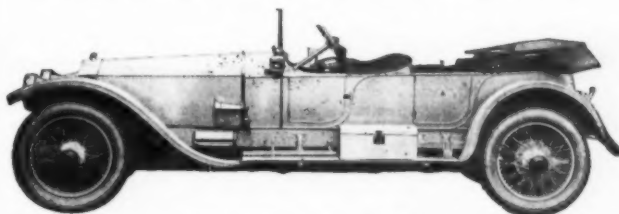
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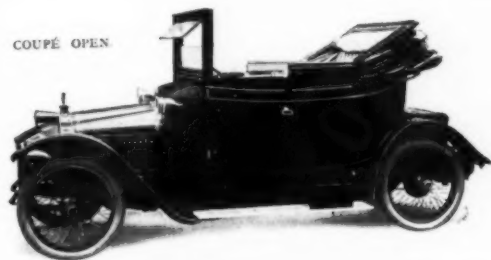
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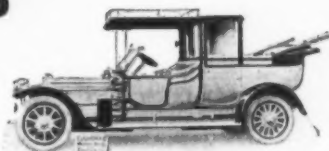
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which is shown by some of the Continental authorities. The first part contains some five hundred pages descriptive of towns and roads, hotels, garages, mountain heights and passes, lakes, tunnels, and other matters of interest. Features of special utility are a list of the roads entirely or partially closed to cars and the regulations in force on certain of the mountain passes, which have been extracted from the Year Book of the Automobile Club of Switzerland. The atlas is made up of one key map and sixteen sectional maps, which cover the whole of the country and are prepared from the latest Ordnance Survey. The price of the compilation, which is printed in French and German combined and is of a convenient size, is half-a-crown.

HARVESTING BY MOTOR.

The photograph reproduced herewith well illustrates the capabilities of the agricultural motor. One of the latest Ivel tractors is shown hauling two binders on King's Hill Farm, Old Warden, near Biggleswade. A fifteen-acre field of wheat was cut in five hours, or at the rate of three acres per hour. With one binder only attached to the tractor, a twenty-five-acre field of wheat was cut in ten hours forty-five minutes. The makers of the tractor inform us that the cost of cutting the two fields, including paraffin, lubricating oil, men's wages and an allowance for depreciation and wear and tear, worked out at one shilling and fourpence per acre.

ITEMS.

The Johannesburg correspondent of the *African World* states that a Talbot car has succeeded in beating the Johannesburg to Durban express by forty minutes. By rail the distance is 482 miles, which the train is timed to cover in twenty-four hours fifteen minutes. In gauging the merit of the car's performance it should be remembered that the roads in the Colony are for the most part little better than mere tracks across the veldt.

An old type Argyll car, whose owner lives near Sheffield, has been put to a novel use. The tonneau body has been removed and replaced by a mowing-machine, which gets over the

ground to such good effect that it mows ten acres of hay within three hours. The car is also used for much of the odd work on the farm.

The Vauxhall Company intend making an attempt on the twelve hours' and intermediate world's records. The latest figures awaiting acceptance as world's records are those achieved by the



REAPING AND BINDING BY MOTOR.

An Ivel tractor at work on King's Hill Farm, near Biggleswade.

15.9 h.p. Argyll, which, on May 27th, covered 914 miles, 604 yards in twelve hours, which works out at an average speed of 76.2 miles an hour. The Vauxhall, of course, has done considerably over a hundred miles in an hour, so that there is a strong probability that the Argyll record will be beaten by a substantial margin.

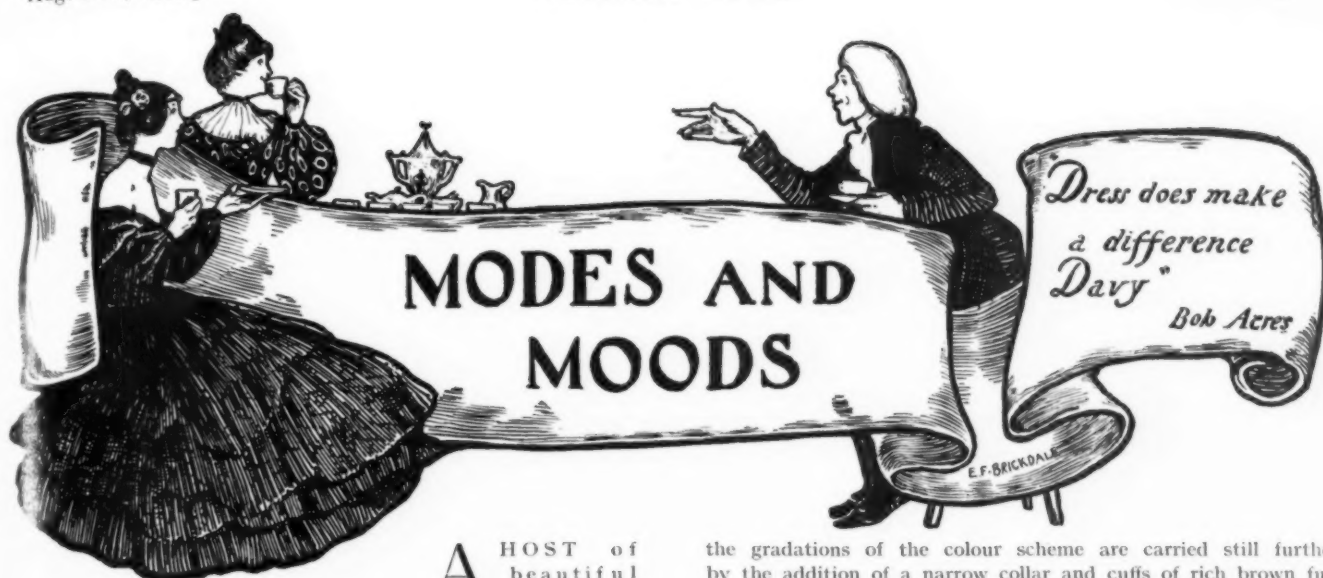


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A HOST of beautiful materials,

some new and others old friends with faces so glorified that recognition seems almost an impertinence; a wealth of colour and one striking change in the matter of outdoor wear—these are the latest indications as to the general trend of autumn fashions. I have already touched upon the marvellous colour schemes that we may shortly expect; so on this point it will suffice to say that, in addition to the yellow and orange alliances then prophesied, every type of red will also be in evidence. The tones of this most becoming and fascinating colour will range from a deep wine colour, full and splendid, to a clear, pale currant red, recalling the delicate shade of a cornelian held up to the light. But as there is no joy without an alloy of some kind, I fear we must also look forward to a certain vogue for a particularly virulent magenta that will be more than difficult to "place" with any other colour, and practically impossible to wear without some chastening influence. Of the new materials, the first flight is headed by the delightful mélange known as watered taffetas, which unites the light texture of one of the daintiest of silks with the rippling, elusive surface of rich moiré. It is an ideal fabric for an indoor gown, and I can further picture it in the form of a charming walking dress, made quite simply with a trim little belted coat and soft tulle or lace ruffles at the neck and wrists. Woollen brocade is another happy innovation. Artistic in design, and produced in most of the alluring colourings of its aristocratic relative, it drapes to a charm, and is wonderfully effective with plain material chosen to tone with its leading shade.

In the whole history of dress the supreme qualities of that rarest of artists, the born dressmaker, can never have been in greater demand than they will be during the coming autumn. Not only will the colour question be most difficult of solution, but one of the features of the season will be the return of the *robe compose*, and eye and hand will alike be taxed to avoid jarring contrasts and the crude mingling of materials. Draperies are rapidly superseding the rigorously limited styles of the last two years, and though skirts will still be narrow about the feet, slashing will disappear and the upper portion of every fashionable gown will be drawn into complicated folds and pleats, and will consist of two or more materials arranged one above the other. Checks, stripes, brocades and quite a variety of figured fabrics will be used in conjunction with plain serge or faced cloth, sometimes in the guise of a contrasting coat and skirt, but as a rule cunningly built into the scheme of the costume. To my mind the most attractive expression of the new type of gown that has yet been brought to light is the skirt arranged in tiers. Well handled, it is extremely graceful, and seems to me better suited for outdoor gowns of fine cloth and kindred winter fabrics than styles calling for greater elaboration. But even at its simplest the tailor-made for early autumn is a complicated affair, evolved in delicate and even fragile materials, and with a strong element of the picturesque. Take, for instance, the charming little gown that forms the subject of my first illustration. Here we have a subtle embodiment of all the newest ideas in colour, line and treatment. The gown, as a whole, is a study in browns and yellows. The three-decker skirt has a foundation of thick charmeuse in a soft shade of almond brown, over which hang two deep flounces of accordion-pleated ninon just a thought paler in tone. Each flounce is cut to fall slightly longer at the back and sides than in front, an arrangement that gives length to the wearer's figure, which the straight all-round flounce is rather apt to diminish. A deeper, fuller note of brown is struck in the little velvet zouave coat, and

the gradations of the colour scheme are carried still further by the addition of a narrow collar and cuffs of rich brown fur. The coat fastens a little above the waist-line with one dull gold filigree button, and displays a delightful waistcoat fashioned of embroidery in every shade of harmonious yellow, with here and there the tiniest touch of dull Japanese blue—an artistic foil to the prevailing tone. The waistcoat is edged with a little fringe of dull gold balls, and the points descending on the skirt are finished



A NEW AUTUMN TAILOR-MADE.

with tassels to match. A brown velvet hat, with a wide edging of Chantilly lace and one sweeping brown plume, is the apex of the costume. For a fair woman, to whose complexion so much yellow might be somewhat trying for daylight wear, the whole scheme might be translated into a becoming shade of blue, with a waistcoat of many coloured embroidery and collar and cuffs of sable.

This breaking away from all traditional lines in the making of fashionable tailored gowns has given a welcome lead to other phases of dress. The sportswoman, after several tentative attempts, has finally determined to cast aside the collection of hide-bound notions that have held her in thrall so long, and to insist for the future that her "service kit" shall not only be eminently useful, but ornamental as well. Becoming caps, more fully trimmed hats, and bright-coloured golf coats were all moves in the right direction, but headgear does not satisfy every requirement, and the knitted coat has become no better than a livery, of which, in spite of its value for rough wear, everyone is growing heartily tired. The hour being ripe for a complete change, the right idea has not been backward in making its appearance, and the flannel sports shirt is already an accomplished fact. The scheme of dress and the materials of the year both lend themselves specially well to its development, and make it possible for the ardent devotee of the links, the moorland and the lochside to be dressed as occasion requires and follow the line of fashion at the same time. The new departure looks its best when worn with a skirt that offers a decided, but not too startling, contrast of either colour or material, although there is something to be said for a suit neatly made to match throughout, with a trifling contrast suggested in the choice of tie, hat trimming and buttons. This, however, greatly depends on personality. Perhaps the safest choice is the happy medium depicted. A skirt, let us say, of myrtle green flannel checked with darker green or black, made with a fair-sized pleat deftly tucked away between the panels to give freedom to the feet when walking, and fitted with the crowning comfort of a pair of ample side pockets. The shirt should in this case match the foundation colour of the skirt, and might be carried out in flannel or in woollen crêpe, which fits the figure the more trimly of the two. It is cut very much on the lines of a Norfolk jacket, with a broad yoke running into points on the shoulders, and a little breast pocket buttoning down from the yoke line on either side. But the basque is the distinguishing point of the well planned sports shirt, and here resemblance to the Norfolk coat ceases entirely. There is no manner of likeness between the straight and rather heavy appearance of the one and the carefully moulded smartness of the other. The slight rise over the hips makes a world of difference, leaving the front to fall in a graceful point, which, however, is converted into a gentle downward curve at the back.

But the most important change contemplated in the fashions of the year will not be strikingly apparent until autumn is a thing of the past and winter really upon us. Long walking coats have been slowly but surely gaining ground for some time, and I hear

on excellent authority that during the next few months they will come fully into their own again and reign supreme throughout the winter and early spring. Fur coats, from costly sable to inexpensive ponyskin, will, of course, hold pride of place, but in addition there will be delightful confections of plush, brocade, ratine, velvet and velours, made with long lines and wonderful drawn-across effects, even the heaviest peltry being given at least a suggestion of drapery. Wrap-coats for motoring and cold weather will be modelled on similar principles, and, indeed, the one idea seems to be to treat the thickest and most inflexible materials as if they were pliable silk or chiffon. It will certainly give variety to winter wraps, but it still remains to be seen if it can be done gracefully. Meanwhile the first harbinger of autumn, the inevitable ermine, is making its appearance in the shop windows in the usual crop of muffs and stoles.

The vogue of tailless ermine is distinctly on the wane, but the fancy still clings, and the new models are for the most part sparingly decorated with a single straight row of tails, placed diagonally across the ends of stoles, and crossing the huge muffs in the same manner from corner to corner. The result is a pleasant compromise between the broken expanse of white and the rather patchy look of tails distributed too liberally. Furs this winter are to be more wonderful than ever, and every class of peltry, including such freak varieties as civet and leopard skin, will be worn. Moleskin and broad-tail gowns are prophesied, though they must, by the nature of things, be far too expensive to be much in evidence, while the strangest rumours are going about in connection with dyed furs. This particular branch of peltry-work has reached the level of a fine art, and it is now suggested that furs should be dyed to match the colour of the gown with which they are worn! Paris is said to be already experimenting with furs dyed chestnut brown and shaded violet. This is *rococo* with a vengeance, and sets one wondering where it will stop. Another Parisian mode—extravagant in both senses of the word—that is just coming into being is the hand-painted gown, which for a time, at least, promises to completely oust embroidery and all other forms of decoration from the extensive wardrobe of the French *élégante*. Copied from old frescoes, friezes and Etruscan or Roman pottery, many of the designs used are barbaric to a degree, while others plainly show the



A
SPORTING
SHIRT.

influence of Russian art in every line. Silk, satin, velvet and crêpe de Chine are the materials that answer best as a background, and in the case of dresses the painting is sometimes employed merely as a border to a peplum-shaped tunic or in the form of a light sprinkling of rose bouquets showered at random over the gown. This is pretty enough, occasionally extremely beautiful, but I have seen several other models over which a disordered fancy seemed to have run riot, for they were painted in huge stripes of geometrical figures in the crudest colouring with most bizarre effect. Evening coats are a favourable medium for the display of this newest form of art, and in nine cases out of ten black velvet is chosen. In one notable case the material was in the darkest possible shade of green, and upon this rich surface was painted a series of huge medallions in deep yellow.

L. M. M.

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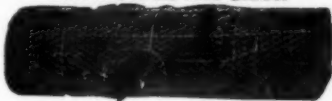
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4^D.
PER
TABLET

POLO NOTES.

LORD ASHBY ST. LEDGERS is said to have laid before the Hurlingham Club proposals for sending a team to America to try once more for the Cup. The idea is that if, as seems probable, the Americans insist on playing in the early summer, our team should be chosen at as early a date as possible, and should practise at Madrid in order to avoid the inclemencies of an English spring. We should have, no doubt, a very good chance, for we have learned a great deal by our three defeats. Enough has been written about our first defeat in 1909, and its lessons have been learned. The second defeat was, as one of those who had to do with the management of the expedition told me the other day, caused by a want of sufficient ponies. Captain Hardress Lloyd exhausted his reserve of ponies, and four more tournament ponies would have turned the scale. It was unlucky that two of our best men were hard upon their ponies. On the last occasion we had four first-rate men, but they had not time or practice sufficient to make them into a team. They did not quite fit into each other's play, and from want of unity failed to withstand the calculated rush which swept away their defence in the first Test Match. We have learned, then, that ponies, practice and a captain must be our chief aims. One who had seen the American players and had since watched our players in the first-class matches played on English grounds told me that the English style of play, with its science, its neat strokes to gain position for the ball before the final shot at the goal, is out of place in America, where a certain lightning-like rapidity makes some of our pretty but complicated play impossible. It would be desirable, also, to come to some agreement as to the height of ponies to be played, but that might be difficult to arrange. The practical advantages of our English system of registration are such that it will probably prevail in some form or another wherever polo is played. I have thought sometimes that limiting the length of sticks and having a standard pattern for heads and fixing the angle at which they are put on might be a way out of the difficulty. Everyone will wish well to Lord Ashby St. Ledgers in his sporting attempt to recover the Cup, and the success of the Quidnuncs, who began by winning the Whitney Cup and finished by taking the Rugby Challenge Cup, shows that his judgment in selecting players and ponies is of the best. I am inclined to think that the team should have plenty of practice at home, and that as short a time as possible, both for the sake of players and ponies, should be spent beforehand in America. X.

FOR TOWN & COUNTRY.

COMFORTABLE CLOTHES.

THE name "Jaeger" has become a household word, standing for everything comfortable and hygienic in the way of underwear. In fact, people are so used to thinking of it in this connection that they scarcely realise how the scope of this wonderful manufacture, though still adhering strictly to the system instituted by Dr. Jaeger himself, has extended till it includes almost every branch of clothing. Jaeger garments have a special value for the sportsman who is subjected to varying temperatures and exposed to all manners of weather. Made of absolutely pure wool, they are the most equable clothing obtainable, since, being a bad heat conductor, wool is cool in warm weather and warm in cold; and it is at the same time thoroughly ventilative. The company have recently issued a new autumn catalogue, with a clever cover by one of the best-known poster artists in London, which will give some idea of the possibilities of Jaeger wear. Under-clothes go without saying, nor is the knitted waistcoat a novelty; but the Jaeger waistcoat may be had in a variety which ensures finding something to suit one's personal requirements, for whatever purposes it is intended. Shooting-men with an eye to the immediate future will find the long-sleeved Cardigan jackets very serviceable, while for those who do not care for the appearance of wool or who require extra warmth during the cold weather under a waistcoat or uniform there are some very nice soft spencers, either with or without sleeves, all these garments being made in three sizes and a wide range of colours and mixtures. Among overcoats there is a luxurious garment called the "Ulster," which, carried out in a fleece, would be an excellent all-round motor-coat, while in a lighter tweed texture it would be equally useful for general travelling wear. The traveller will appreciate the light, comfortable caps, mufflers and rugs in which the firm also specialise, and, if camping out, the hoods, lined shoes, mittens, sleeping-bags, etc. Even for home use a chilly mortal will not despise the soft texture and light warmth of woollen sheets. We would recommend our readers to pay a visit to any shop where Jaeger goods are displayed, and see these things for themselves; otherwise, they will find the catalogue referred to and obtainable from Dr. Jaeger's Sanitary Woollen System Company, Limited, 126, Regent Street, W., a good guide whereby to shop.

MAKING A KITCHEN GARDEN.

Mr. Morrison, head-gardener at Beau Desert, the Staffordshire seat of the Marquess of Anglesey, is a much to be envied man, for to him has been given what so many gardeners, both amateur and professional, sigh for all their lives in vain—the opportunity to lay out a generous and well-favoured plot according to his heart's desire. The site chosen by Mr. Morrison, and destined for a new kitchen garden, consists of about four and a-half acres, with a nice southern slope. The garden walls, which will be about twelve feet high, will be built of local hand-made bricks of a pleasing warm colour, broken at intervals by stone piers and finished with a deep moulded stone coping. Portable glazed wall tree protectors, with rods for protecting nets, will be run round most of the garden, a portion of which is to be terraced to accommodate the hothouses. These will consist of a large centre palm-house with ornamental lantern roof, and on either side there will be wings arranged for five large vineries, two peach-houses and two fig-houses. At right angles to the fruit-houses there are to be ten span-roofed houses, each twenty feet wide, which will be used for various purposes. At the back of the fruit range will be provided a fine range of garden offices. Forcing houses and pits will be arranged outside of the enclosed garden. A highly efficient arrangement of heating apparatus is to be installed, and ample provision will be made for the storage and distribution of rain-water, which will be collected into a large underground tank and then distributed to the various points by an oil engine and pump and a system of pipes. Arrangements for the warming and distribution of tepid water for watering purposes will also be provided. The erection of the hothouses, together with all the other constructional work, has been entrusted to Messrs. Mackenzie and Moncur, Limited, of 8, Camden Road, London, N.W.; also Edinburgh and Glasgow.

THE CULT OF THE CANDY.

In spite of all that has been said lately about the revolution in feminine nature, most women are conservative in their appreciation of bonbons; and, providing that it comes up to the high standard of excellence imposed by sophisticated modern tastes, a box of chocolates is still a highly approved gift. There is an almost irresistible appeal in a plump, freshly made chocolate, especially when its filling is also beyond suspicion. A few years ago English makers were content to offer their customers only simple creams and the like, but when they saw how the more elaborate French and American sweets were appreciated, they not only took the hint but went ahead in inventing new delicacies at such a rate that to-day English chocolates can hold their own anywhere. The *chocolats de luxe* made by Messrs. Fry and Sons of Bristol are an example of how good the best can be. Original and pleasing in appearance and boasting delicious and novel fillings, they represent the last word in appetising bonbons. Nuts of every description—chestnuts, filberts, almonds, etc.—are pressed into the service, and allied with delicately flavoured creams and pastes, while the moulds themselves are fashioned of the best chocolate it is possible to obtain. The sweets are put up in boxes, white and gold outside, and daintily packed within. From personal experience we would advise our readers in search of really good chocolates, either for a gift or dessert purposes, to try Fry's *chocolats de luxe*. They will certainly find them much appreciated.

NEW AUTUMN MATERIALS.

Nothing could demonstrate the continued popularity of Navy serge for general wear more emphatically than the ever-increasing range of textures and shades in which it can be obtained. In a book of patterns of new autumn serges recently issued by Messrs. Egerton Burnett, Limited, of the "Royal" Serge Warehouse, Wellington, Somerset, there appear to be every possible gradation of colour from black through indigos and ultramarines to an almost royal blue, and the textures varied from a heavy Government serge, guaranteed to stand even schoolboy wear, to a fine-ribbed material of silky surface and the flexibility of cashmere. In coloured and white serges the variety is equally marked; some, indeed, scarcely looked like serge at all. One—a homespun—for example, the ideal material for a rough holiday suit, is remarkably like a closely woven tweed at first glance, while another, a herringbone pattern, designed for ladies' cycling and walking costumes, had all the colour of a Scotch "mixture" material. In the "Mountaineer" tweeds Messrs. Egerton Burnett have achieved a very pleasing new cloth, having all the strength, warmth and durability of a good tweed combined with light weight and a smooth surface. Woven in a variety of mixed shades, the "Mountaineer" is the very thing for strenuous sporting, climbing and touring purposes, and its makers claim that it will retain colour and appearance through the worst weather and hardest treatment. Another material, which would make a most desirable loose wrap-coat, is a soft, reversible blanket, dull blue and fawn on the one side and a darker brown and greyish green on the other. To wear with these are some delightfully soft silk and wool materials in a variety of striped designs, which would lend themselves admirably to tailored shirt and blouse purposes. For town wear there are several nice materials, including some exquisitely fine serges and a very effective ribbed velours in some charming shades, notably a deep dull tan, which would be a most harmonious tint for autumn wear.

A LATE SUMMER TRIP.

The last of the very successful summer excursions inaugurated this year by the Paris, Lyons and Mediterranean Railway leaves London for Auvergne, Dauphiny, Savoy, Provence and Corsica to-day (August 30th).

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